

Certification Policy 02-B – Reciprocity (out-of-state)

August 2002

Background:

Candidates with current National Registry (NR) credentials, applying for certification in Texas will be addressed in Policy 02-E. This policy addresses only out-of-state reciprocity applicants. Several questions have arisen regarding the candidate for Texas reciprocity certification which are not specifically addressed by rule.

Statute Reference: HSC §773.050

Rule Reference:

§157.33 (k) Reciprocity. A person currently certified by the National Registry or in another state may be certified by submitting an application and a nonrefundable fee of \$100.

(1) After evaluation of the application and verification of the certification by the department, the candidate will be certified for one year.

(2) Prior to the expiration of the one-year certification, the certificant shall:

(A) submit a completed personnel certification application and a nonrefundable fee as in subsection (a)(4) of this section;

(B) pass the department's written examination or the National Registry examination within one year after the initial reciprocity certification has been granted.

(3) After verification by the department of the information submitted, a candidate who meets the requirements of this section shall be certified for four years beginning on the date of issuance of the certificate.

Questions relating to the unclear portions:

(a) Are reciprocity candidates held to the age and high school/GED requirements?

(b) Can a volunteer reciprocity candidate claim exempt fee status?

(c) How many opportunities does the one-year reciprocity certificant get to pass the state written exam?

(d) Can a reciprocity certificant apply for renewal after the one year reciprocity certificate expiration date?

(e) Should reciprocity-to-full-certification candidates be granted 4 year certification from issue date (as stated in rule) or from expiration date, as with recertification candidates?

(f) Can a reciprocity certificant apply for inactive status during their one-year reciprocity certification period?

Policy: The following answers the above questions.

Candidates seeking initial reciprocity in Texas:

(a) must meet fundamental application requirements as in §157.33(a)(1) & (2)

(1) be at least 18 years of age

(2) have a high school diploma or GED certificate

(b) must make an exception request to be considered for a volunteer fee exemption

(1) candidate to submit a letter explaining the circumstances surrounding the exception request, along with evidence substantiating current volunteer status with a licensed Texas EMS provider or First Responder Organization

(2) candidate to submit a volunteer signoff as on the initial and recertification application forms

Candidates currently certified by Texas reciprocity who are seeking renewal:

(c) are to follow the recertification exam process as addressed in Option 1, §157.34(b)(1)

(d) can repeat the reciprocity process, see Policy 01-K, or follow the late or re-entry recertification process, as addressed in 157.34 (f)(4), except they do not have a choice of options. They must pass the exam.

(e) after passing TDH-approved exam, are issued certification 4 years from issue date, as stated in §157.33(k)(3)

(f) may apply for inactive status during or after the one-year recertification period, as outlined in §157.33(j)

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Signature date September 11, 2002

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